

## State-Sponsored Shred Fest in Milwaukee on June 4

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WEST ALLIS – The Wisconsin Office of Privacy Protection in the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection will host a free paper shredding event on Saturday, June 4, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Wisconsin State Fair Park in West Allis. All shredding will take place right on site, and is available to consumers and small business owners.

“Identity theft is a very real threat, with more than 8 million Americans falling victim in 2010,” said Sandy Chalmers, Administrator of the Division of Trade and Consumer Protection. “According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the average identity theft recovery cost is \$630. Shredding financial documents and paperwork is a way to minimize the chance of becoming a victim.”

Bank statements, bills, canceled checks, and the like, all contain personally identifiable information. When not disposed of properly it can be used by identity thieves to ruin your good name and cause plenty of headaches.

“Shredding is the most secure option for disposing sensitive documents,” added Chalmers. “Our shredding event gives consumers and small business owners, who may not otherwise have access to a shredder, the opportunity to destroy their documents for free.”

Access Information Services is bringing several state-wide shredding vendors together for this event; all services are being donated. People should enter the North Lot at State Fair Park through Gate 6. **There is a 50 pound (two bag) limit per person or business.** Staples and paper clips **do not** have to be removed. Only documents containing personally identifiable information will be shredded.

This second annual shred fest in the Milwaukee area is a collaborative effort by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection’s Office of Privacy Protection; Access Information Services; and Wisconsin State Fair Park. TODAY’S TMJ4 Call 4 Action volunteers will be on hand to assist during the event.

For more information visit [www.privacy.wi.gov](http://www.privacy.wi.gov) or call the Office of Privacy Protection at 1-800-422-7128.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** Severe weather conditions will cancel the event – visit [www.privacy.wi.gov](http://www.privacy.wi.gov) for alternate date information.

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